REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Attention is drawn to the attached Form PTO-1449 including copies of office actions and prior art cited in a parallel EPO proceeding. The IDS fee for this stage of prosecution is also attached. Official consideration and citation of all such material is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended above to a form that has recently been indicated as allowable in the EPO.

The objection to the specification as incorporating essential material by reference to a foreign application or patent or publication is not understood. If the Examiner can point out where any such incorporation of essential material has been attempted, the undersigned will rapidly cure that situation.

The objection to claim 12 as being written in outline format is not understood since such format is entirely consistent with USPTO guide lines and practice and is found in a great many issued US patents. In any event, redrafted claims now submitted have been drafted in such a fashion as to hopefully avoid this objection.

The rejection of claims 1-8, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Miloslavsky et al. '259 and the rejection of claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Miloslavsky in further view of Gessler et al. are both respectfully traversed.

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The new claims now presented include:

a processor (403) arranged to detect messages transmitted on the signaling channel that contain at least partial data of a predetermined type, the detected messages comprising sufficient information to enable the network terminating unit (111) to establish how parts of data of the same predetermined type sent in separate messages are linked to enable the network terminating unit (111) to reconstitute the data;

means arranged to extract the at least partial data; and

means arranged to store the at least partial data for passing to a first destination device (115),

the network terminating unit (111) being arranged to establish how partial data detected in separate signaling messages are linked and being further arranged to reconstitute the data from said plurality of signaling messages.

Miloslavaky does not even teach the need to extract partial data from a plurality of messages, and then use the received partial data to reconstitute the whole. Nor does Kessler et al teach this aspect of the invention, either independently or in combination with Miloslavsky.

The dependent claims add yet further patentable distinction from the cited references – especially when considered as a whole as they must be under 35 U.S.C. §103.
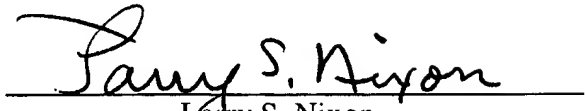
Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

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MALLETT et al
Appl. No. 09/936,176
April 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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